

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 140618Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9765

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4626

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, ID

SUBJ: INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR BELIEVES MARSHAL MUST STEP DOWN

REF: PHNOM PENH 4578

1. NEWLY ARRIVED INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR, MAJOR GENERAL ISHAK DJUARSA, CALLED ON ME FRIDAY, MARCH 14. HE SAID HE HAD SERVED IN CAMBODIA "AS AN OBSERVER" IN 1971-72 AND RETURNED ON BRIEF VISITS IN 1973. ON THE BASIS OF HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE HERE, HE SAID HE WAS APPALLED WHEN HE CALLED ON MARSHAL LON NOL TO OBSERVE THE DETERIORATION IN THE MARSHAL'S HEALTH. HE DOUBTED THE MARSHAL'S ABILITY TO LEAD THE NATION OUT OF THE PRESENT CRISIS.

2. THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR DID PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE TALKING AND I MERELY LISTENED. THE THRUST OF HIS PRESENTATION WAS THE NEED FOR THE MARSHAL TO STEP DOWN, BUT IN REPLY TO MY QUERY, HE SAID THAT ANY CHANGE IN KHMER LEADERSHIP MUST BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE KHMERS THEMSELVES. HOWEVER, UNLESS THIS HAPPENS, CAMBODIA IS DOOMED TO FALL TO THE COMMUNISTS.

3. THE NEW INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR FEELS SO STRONGLY ABOUT HIS VIEWS THAT HE IS DISPATCHING HIS DEPUTY, MINISTER DJANI, TO JAKARTA TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND FOREIGN MINISTER ADAM MALIK.

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AMBASSADOR ISHAK DJUARSA SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHO

SHOULD REPLACE THE MARSHAL OR HOW IT SHOULD BE DONE BY THE KHMERS THEMSELVES. HE JUST FELT THAT THE SITUATION REQUIRED DRASTIC SURGERY AND HE FELT IT WAS HIS JOB TO INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF HIS CONCLUSIONS.

4. AT NO TIME DURING THE CONVERSATION WAS I ASKED TO COMMENT ON HIS VIEWS OR PRESENT OUR POSITION.

5. COMMENT. IT IS APPARENT THAT THE NEED FOR A CHANGE AT THE TOP IN KHMER LEADERSHIP IS A CONCLUSION BEING REACHED AMONG ALL THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASEAN NATIONS STATIONED HERE PLUS THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR (PHNOM PENH 4578). VIEWS OF THE MALAYSIAN CHARGE ARE BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.
DEAN

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